

Claims

1. A switch for establishing a call between a terminal of an originating network and a terminal of a terminating network, the switch comprising:
an input for receiving call identification information in a first format from the originating network;
reformatting means for reformatting received call identification information into a second format;
an output means for outputting the call identification information in the second format over the terminating network; and
connection means for completing a connection, suitable for the identified call, between the terminals.

2. A switch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the call identification information comprises call type information.

3. A switch as claimed in claim 2, wherein the call type information comprises telecommunications service information.

Sub A1 4. A switch as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the call identification information comprises bearer service information.

5. A switch as claimed in claim 4, wherein the reformatting means for reformatting the received bearer service information is arranged to negotiate the bearer of the terminating network to match that of the originating network.

Sub A2 6. A switch as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the first format is an in band format.

7. A switch as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the second format is an out band format.

8. A switch as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the terminating network is digital.

9. A switch as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the originating network is analogue.

10. A switch as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein one of the networks is a wireless communications network.

11. A switch as claimed in claim 10, wherein the wireless communication network is a universal mobile telecommunications system (UMTS) network.

12. A switch as claimed in claim 10, wherein the wireless communication network is a GSM network.

13. A switch as claimed in claim 11 or 12, wherein the switch is a mobile switching centre.

14. A switch as claimed in any of claims 10 to 13, comprising a transcoder.

15. A switch as claimed in any of claims 10 to 14 wherein the wireless communications network is the terminating network.

16. A switch as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7, wherein one of the networks is a fixed line network.

17. A switch as claimed in claim 16, wherein the fixed line network is a PSTN network.

18. A switch as claimed in claim 16, wherein the fixed line network is an ISDN network.

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Sub A3

19. A switch as claimed in any of claims 16 to 18, wherein the fixed line network is the originating network.

20. A switch as claimed in any preceding claim, further comprising:
means, coupled to the input, for determining primary call type information on the basis of a subscriber number, for forwarding first primary call identification information to the output, and for forwarding further primary call identification information to the reformatting means.

21. A method for establishing a call between a terminal of an originating network and a terminal of a terminating network, the method comprising:
receiving call identification information in a first format from the originating network;
reformatting received call identification information into a second format;
outputting the call identification information in the second format over the terminating network; and
completing a connection, suitable for the identified call, between the terminals.

22. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the call identification information comprises call type information.

23. A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the call type information comprises telecommunications service information.

24. A method as claimed in any of claims 21 to 23, wherein the call identification information comprises bearer service information.

25. A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein reformatting received call identification information comprises negotiating the bearer of the terminating network to match that of the originating network.

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Sub A6

26. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the first format is an in band format.

27. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the second format is an out band format.

28. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the terminating network is digital.

29. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the originating network is analogue.

30. A method as claimed in any of claims 21 to 29, wherein one of the networks is a wireless communications network.

31. A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the wireless communication network is a universal mobile telecommunications system (UMTS) network.

32. A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the wireless communication network is a GSM network.

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33. A method as claimed in any of claims 21 to 27, wherein one of the networks is a fixed line network.

34. A method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the fixed line network is a PSTN network.

35. A method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the fixed line network is an ISDN network.

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36. A method as claimed in any of claims 33 to 35, wherein the fixed line network is the originating network.

37. A method for establishing a call between a terminal of an originating network and a terminal of a terminating network, the method comprising:

- establishing a call of a predetermined type;
- transmitting call identification information in a first format from the originating terminal to the terminating network;
- reformatting received call identification information into a second format;
- transmitting the call identification information in the second format to the terminating terminal; and
- establishing a connection, suitable for the identified call, between the terminals.

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38. A method as claimed in any of claims 21 to 37, further comprising:

- determining primary call identification information on the basis of a subscriber number;
- providing a predetermined connection if the primary call identification corresponds to the call identification of the predetermined connection; and
- performing the reformatting, transmitting and establishing steps if the primary call information is different.

39. A switching system for establishing a call between a terminal of an originating network and a terminal of a terminating network, the switching system comprising:

- means for receiving call identification information in a first format from the originating network;
- means for reformatting received call identification information into a second format;
- means for transmitting the call identification information in the second format over the terminating network; and

connection means for completing a connection, suitable for the identified call, between the terminals.

40. A switch for establishing a call between a terminal of an originating network and a terminal of a terminating network, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and/or as illustrated in any one, or any combination, of Figures 3 to 23 of the accompanying drawings.

41. A system for establishing a call between a terminal of an originating network and a terminal of a terminating network, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and/or as illustrated in any one, or any combination, of Figures 3 to 23 of the accompanying drawings.

42. A method for establishing a call between a terminal of an originating network and a terminal of a terminating network, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and/or as illustrated in any one, or any combination, of Figures 3 to 23 of the accompanying drawings.

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